

Minutes of the April 22, 2024 Hampton City Council Workshop

The Hampton City Council Workshop was called to order at the Hampton City Council Chambers by Mayor Steve Birdsall at 6:00 p.m. The workshop was also offered electronically through Zoom. Council members in attendance were Kevin Blanford, Jerre Grefe, Barry Lamos, and Patrick Palmer. James Davies and Bill Hodge were absent. Also present were Police Chief Mark Morrison, City Manager Ron Dunt, and Public Works Director Doug Tarr. Mayor Birdsall invited those present to join in the Pledge of Allegiance to the U.S. flag.

Mayor Birdsall offered time for public comment. Carolee Philpott asked the council for permission to place an American flag at Memorial Park at the expense of her and her family. She said they would maintain the flag and flagpole but requested to pick the location. Council requested Philpott to bring back her final plans when they were set. Bill Hittle, of the Greater Franklin County Chamber of Commerce, presented Council member Jerre Grefe with a Main Street Iowa leadership award.

Police Chief Mark Morrison gave an update on nuisances. The police department is working with city staff to complete court ordered cleanups. Public Works Director Doug Tarr informed the council he had court Tuesday regarding an ongoing nuisance property. Tarr reported he would have final community cleanup numbers at the next council workshop, and that weekly grass and weed checks would start next Monday. Chief Morrison and Tarr answered various questions from the council.

City Manager Dunt presented the council with a draft ordinance for mobile food vendors. The council will continue to discuss at the next council workshop.

City Manager Dunt gave an update on the properties at 4 & 6 1st St NW. The roof has been repaired on the main 2 story buildings but there is still some potential leakage happening in the rear additions. City staff will be removing the A/C units and will tarp the area temporarily. Dunt asked Veenstra and Kimm to provide a scope of services to manage cleanup and improvements to the property. The consensus was to report back to council the V & K proposed scope of services.

Council member Lamos also inquired about the status of Diana's Place. Dunt said the city has pricing for the material and is getting estimates for labor. With the court order, the City will make the repairs and will bill the property owner for the expenses or place a lien on the property. Dunt will also look into other legal options as requested by Councilman Lamos.

City Manager Dunt presented the council with wage comparisons for park/cemetery part-time seasonal mowers from various similar-sized cities. The consensus of the council was to increase the starting wage to \$14.00/hr, \$15.00/hr for 1st year returning, and \$15.50/hr for the 2nd year returning. Council will vote on the wages at the regular session on Thursday.

The council then reviewed the FY24 Budget Amendment. Council will set the date for the public hearing on the amended budget at the regular session on Thursday.

The workshop concluded at 6:59 p.m.